

The Lifeline



April 2014

24 Hour Phone: 651-227-5502

Volume 50, Issue 4

Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

"I don't feel safe," someone at a meeting will share, or "Let's keep AA a safe place." And I will think, "Safe from whom? Safe from what? Safe from the outside world?" Perhaps, but it is more likely that the world needs to be kept safe from me should I pick up a drink, given my drinking history. *Safe*. Sometimes the word seems to float lonely, unattached, through the room, seeking a context. Sometimes, hearing the word, I feel, well, unsafe.

I noticed that the business meeting that normally followed the regularly scheduled meeting on the first Thursday of the month did not take place. The next month came and again no business meeting. The same thing the following month. I asked the chairperson about it. "We have business meetings when we feel like having business meetings," he said. I went to another member of the group. "We're not into business meetings," he said.

The group began to seem different. A group officer wandered around with the collections from the previous three weeks seeking to know who the treasurer was. The chairperson's personality seemed to intrude more on the meeting. Vacancies in some service positions went unfilled. The offerings on the literature table looked sparse. It became difficult to share simple things about sobriety at the meeting: the premium seemed to be on wit over sincerity.

Then, at the group's monthly anniversary meeting, the celebrants shared their gratitude for their year or years of recovery. At the secretary's break, the elderly manager of the center where we met asked for a few minutes of the group's time. She spoke with pain and anger. She said that we weren't cleaning up after ourselves. She said that time after time the meeting place was being left in disarray: chairs weren't put away, garbage was not disposed of, the floors weren't swept and mopped. She said that some group members, when she sought to discuss the problem, gave her the runaround, that they tried to con her with flip answers. "Keep it up and I'm going to put you out of here," she announced to the stunned group.

Each group has the right to be wrong (and the right to be right). Tradition Four tells us so. And yet, among the sweetest words I hear at any AA meeting these days are, "There's a business meeting following our regular meeting tonight. All group officers are asked to attend, and members of the group are encouraged to do so as well." A regularly scheduled business meeting increases the probability of group unity, of an informed group conscience rather than the whims of a few. It increases the probability that group officers will, along with the right to serve, have a sense of responsibility regarding their service commitment. A business meeting is a way of saying that we as members have a right to an accounting of our Seventh Tradition contributions with a treasurer's report. It is a way of allowing the general service representative, through his or her report, to introduce into the consciousness of the group the idea that the group is not an end in itself but part of the service structure beyond it. It is a way of ensuring that we take our inventory so our hosts won't have to. It is a way of saying we care.

Safe from each other and safe for each other, and safe for the person coming in behind us, the alcoholic who still suffers--that is what I think *safe* means. Safe through our Twelve Traditions from the irresponsibility that was such a feature of my active alcoholism.

-David S., New York, New York

The Grapevine, April 2002, reprinted with permission of *The Grapevine, Inc.*

St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

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Step Four: Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

We should make an accurate and really exhaustive survey of our past life as it affected other people. In many instances we shall find that, though the harm done to others has not been great, we have nevertheless done ourselves considerable emotional injury.

Then, too, damaging emotional conflicts persist below the level of consciousness, very deep, sometimes quite forgotten. Therefore, we should try hard to recall and review those past events which originally induced these conflicts and which continue to give our emotions violent twists, thus discoloring our personality and altering our lives for the worst.

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"We react more strongly to frustrations than normal people. By reliving these episodes and discussing them in strict confidence with somebody else, we can reduce their size and therefore their potency in the unconscious."

- As Bill Sees it, p.111 - Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Notes From your Board...

So it's late March and I am sitting at my desk wondering when this cold will ever go away. I am reminded of the principles before personalities. I get to choose how I show up as a Minnesotan, just like I get to choose how I show up as a member in service and a member of AA.

It was a real shocking lesson when I learned that its principles before MY personality not anyone else's. Just like it's the winter before me being crabby or tired of it.

I don't always like what other people do at work, in my family, or in AA but I get to choose how I show up. The traditions including principles before personalities show us how to stay together as a whole, its what allows us to operate with so many personalities on the Intergroup Board. Every person shows up with ideas, thoughts, and skills that make the Board successful and keep the office running. A single person cannot do this alone so I appreciate every person with a personality that shows up, even if it's different than mine. The members of AA and all their personalities are what make the Intergroup Office successful! That said, we meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month and I would welcome everyone with an idea, a thought, and a personality to come join us!

- Christa W., Board Chair

Notes From your Central Office...

We have some excitement coming to the office in April with the arrival of the 75th Anniversary edition of the Big Book. This commemorative edition will be a faithful reproduction of the first printing of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as it was first printed in 1939. This first press run was for less than 5000 copies, and the second printing with a few alterations began in 1941. Few than 2500 of the first print editions are known to still exist, and they draw prices well over \$1000 when they are offered for sale.

The Anniversary editions we will be receiving around mid-April will not be 75 years old and rare, but they won't smell like old books either. Nor will we charge you thousand of dollars for them. They will be as identical to the originals as A.A. World Services can make them, even down to reproducing the original typographical errors.

We are looking forward to seeing these, and also seeing the many members of our area Fellowship who will be coming by to pick one up for themselves. Several dozen people have asked to be alerted when we receive them to be able to get one early. We've ordered lots of them, and will be able to re-order them until around June, 2015, so we expect to have plenty for all of you.

- Thanks, St. Paul Area A.A.!

<u>2014 Steering Board</u>		<u>Office Calls in February 2014</u>	
<u>Chair:</u>	Christa W.	Meeting information	111
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Tim B.	Inventory/hours	19
<u>Secretary:</u>	Michelle M.	12th Step calls	3
<u>Treasurer:</u>	CJ M.	Temporary sponsor	26
<u>Alt. Treasurer</u>	Kelly B.	Speaker request	27
<u>Members at Large 2014:</u>	Tiffany B. & Jan T.	Special events	2
<u>Members at Large 2015:</u>	Hillary B. & Paul T.	Outside issues	6
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Jean O.	Info for professionals	0
		Administrative	77
		Other	68
		Total Calls	339
		Daily average	16.95
		Visitors	256

UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

<p>Gopher State Roundup XLI May 23-25, 2014 Seeking volunteers - Greeters, Ushers, Registration and more Signup online at gopherstateroundup.org</p>	<p>Area 36 Delegate's Workshop Discuss General Service Conference Agenda Items Saint John's Church, 500 Third Street W. Northfield, MN Saturday, April 5th, 9:00AM - 5:00PM www.area36.org</p>
<p>MNYPAA 3 "Escaping Disaster Together" Holiday Inn & Suites Duluth Downtown Friday, April 11th - Sunday, April 13th www.mnypaa.org</p>	<p>12th Annual Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend "Becoming a Part of the Common Solution" Holiday Inn -Fairmont, MN Friday, April 25th - Sunday, April 27th Email: sotsweekend@gmail.com</p>
<p>75th Anniversary Big Book Anniversary Celebration New Ulm Events Center 301 20th St. S, New Ulm, MN 56073 Friday, May 2nd - Saturday, May 3rd www.Dist23.net</p>	<p>44th Annual Iron Range Get-Together "Rocketed into a Fourth Dimension" Sawmill Inn 2301 S. Pokegama Ave., Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Friday, May 2nd - Sunday, May 4th Call Jack at 218-492-4287 or Jake at 218-263-1510</p>
<p><u>Group and Area News</u></p> <p>New Meeting: The <i>Ladies of Langdon</i> meet every Thursday at 7PM at the Old Langdon School, 8839 96th St. S., Cottage Grove, MN 55016. They are a Closed, Women's, Big Book/Topic meeting.</p> <p>New Group: The SOS: <i>Sharing Our Sobriety</i> group is meeting every Saturday at 8AM at the Memorial Lutheran Church, 15730 Afton Blvd. S., Afton, MN 55001. It is a Closed, Mixed, Big Book meeting that is Handicap Accessible.</p> <p>New Time: The <i>Hampden Park Group</i> changed its meeting time from 8PM to 7:30PM on Thursdays. They meet at St. Cecelia's Church, 2357 Bayless Pl., St. Paul, MN 55114. They are a Closed, Mixed, Step meeting.</p>	<p><u>Fourth Step & Big Book Workshops</u></p> <p>By The Book 4th Step Workshop Wednesdays, ~6:30PM - 7:45PM ~ 2218 1st Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404 For more info: www.aabythebook.org</p> <p><u>Your News?</u></p> <p>We invite you to share your AA news here! Please send your items to lifeline@aastpaul.org. We look forward to hearing from you.</p>



Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 P.M.



Dance 9:00PM—Midnight

Saint Paul Intergroup's
Annual Spring Fling
Saturday April 26th, 2013
5:30 P.M. – 12 Midnight
The Recovery Church
253 State St, St Paul, MN 55107
(Plato & State St)



AA & Al-Anon Speakers 7 P.M.
 (Open Meeting - Seventh Tradition)
 AA Speaker: Curt K., Foxhall Chapter 7,
 Eden Prairie
 Al-Anon Speaker: Kit B. Mendota Heights
 AFG

**Contribution: \$10 Entire Evening,
 or \$7 Dinner Only, or \$5 Dance Only**
 ~No one turned away for lack of funds~

St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes February 18th, 2014

I. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, Introductions, and the reading of the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.

II. Minutes from January were reviewed and approved.

III. Treasurer's Report – CJ reported on the checking account and payroll report. Both have healthy balances. She also reported that assets are up from last month. Contributions and book sales are normal for the first month of the year. The **Faithful Fiver** automatic and electronic payment program has taken hold, and you are invited to participate in this convenience! Forms are available in the *Lifeline* or on the website. Other questions/concerns can be sent to CJ M. at treasurer@aastpaul.org.

IV. The Office Report – Frank N. reports that changing to the new computer system is going quite smoothly. The office is looking forward to the arrival of the 75th Anniversary First Edition of the Big Book, and is making plans for a nice display in the office. The Office continues to seek submissions of writing, cartoons, and/or jokes from individuals for inclusion in the *Lifeline*. Office staff is available to help you create a flyer for your AA-related event, just call or email at manager@aastpaul.org.

V. The Website Report – Jonathan reports there are three new meetings and one new group this month. He reports that we had 11,213 visits to our website in the month of January! Many service opportunities are available on the website. The full usage report and server statistics are available on the website. Groups are encouraged to contact Jonathan (webservant@aastpaul.org) or the Office for AA-related events which may be added. Guidelines are available on the site. Remember to submit your flyers (with AA-related content) for inclusion on the website.

VI. Outreach Program – Tiffany B reports that the program is looking for people to go out to any meeting serviced by the St. Paul Intergroup and bring information about what Intergroup has to offer. Contact Tiffany B at outreach@aastpaul.org for more information on assisting Intergroup with this valuable service opportunity!

VII. Update from the Board – Tim B. reports that we have an opening for a Board Member at Large. He asks that we go back to our groups to generate interest in this position. If you are interested, please send your service resume to Frank at: manager@aastpaul.org. The term is until the end of 2014. There is a 2-year sobriety requirement.

VIII. Night Owl Report – Crissy W. reports there are **FIVE** recurring shifts available. Please visit the website or call the Office for more information on open shifts and to volunteer. Night Owl Orientation is held every third Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Office.

IX. Liaison Reports:

Scott (District 8) reports that the district pays \$130/week for the ASL interpreters at OMD. The green can committee requests that groups report and send in funds each month. Questions or concerns about the green can, please email Chris S at: csnowden1964@yahoo.com.

Nancy (District 15) reports that District 15 will be hosting a District Workshop on Saturday March 15, 2014 at the Christ Lutheran Church in Lake Elmo. Lunch is at 11:30am followed by speakers at 12:30pm. Topic is *Starting a New Meeting*. All are welcome. She also reported that the District received permission to bring an AA meeting to the Oak Park Heights correctional facility at 6:30pm every Thursday.

X. Upcoming Intergroup Events:

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Saturday March 8, 2014. Dinner (tacos) at 6pm. Speaker (Steve C.) 7pm at Bethlehem Church.

Spring Fling: Saturday April 26, 2014. Spaghetti dinner, speaker, and DJ dance at the Recovery Church.

Gopher State: Razz S. gave us background about Gopher State, and a reminder about participating in Gopher State. She reminds us to visit the website at www.gopherstateroundup.org. Christa reminds us that Intergroup will be hosting a hospitality suite, so prepare to sign up or have your group sign up to take a shift hosting at the suite.

XI. Old Business: none

XII. New Business: none

XIII. Group AA Announcements: none

XIV. Suggestions for next month's agenda: none

XV. Paul delivered the Grapevine Report. Mike C. volunteered to do the Grapevine Report for March.

XVI. Mark delivered the Concept Review for Concept II. Paul T. volunteered for March.

XVII. Muggsy delivered the Mock Rep Report. Drew L. volunteered for March.

XVIII. Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

ATTENDANCE:

Jean O., Advisor to Board	Christa W., Board Chair	Michele M., Secretary	CJ M., Treasurer	Tim B., Alternate Chair	Tiffany B., Member at Large
Hillary B., Member at Large	Paul T., Member at Large	Jonathan L., Webservant	Frank N., Office Manager	Crissy W., Night Owl Comm. Chair	Jill J., Como Park BB
Paul T., Dakota Alano	Mike C., Defogged Men	Scott L., District 8	Tali M., Fireside Women	Terry H., The Firing Line	Craig O., Happy Hour 12x12
Muggsy A., Hole in the Donut	Katy L., Look to this Day	Dan K., Main Idea	Ken D., Maplewood Alano	Megann K., MNYPFA	Mark G., OMD
Steve N., St. Paul Speaker Mtg.	Bryant S., Students of Life	Kat M., Summit Hill	Don D., Third Edition BB	Joe S., 12x12 By the Book	Becca N., Uptown
Drew L., West End					

April MEETING: Tuesday the 15th, 2014 (7:30 PM)
 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
 436 Roy Street North, St. Paul, MN 55104

**7th Tradition
Suggestions for Groups**

“Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

The Conference-approved pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” offers the following suggestions for the distribution of group funds after group expenses have been paid:

50% St. Paul Intergroup

Spruce Tree Center
1600 University Ave. #214
St. Paul, MN 55104

30% General Service Office

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

10% Southern MN Area 36

Area Assembly
P.O. Box 2812
Mpls., MN 55402

10% District Committee

Ramsey County:
District 8, P.O. Box 131523
St. Paul, MN 55113

Dakota County:
District 19, P.O. Box 1466
Burnsville, MN 55337

Washington County:
District 15, P.O. Box 181
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

SE Ramsey County:
District 26, P.O. Box 75980
St. Paul, MN 55175

FEBRUARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors: 22
Total Group Contributions: \$1918
Number of Faithful Fivers: 19
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$265

Thank You!

District Meetings

District 8 (Ramsey Co.)
Fairview Community Center
1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 108, Roseville
3rd Wed., 7:30 PM

District 15 (Wash. Co.)
Christ Lutheran Church
11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo
4th Mon., 7:00 PM

District 19 (Dakota Co.)
Rosemount Community Center
13885 South Robert Trail
2nd Wed., 7:00 PM

District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.)
Grace Lutheran Church
1730 Old Hudson Rd, St. Paul
2nd Sun., 7:00PM
www.district26-area36.org

**Thanks to all the super
volunteers who helped in the
Office during February**

Adam P., Blake H., Bob P.,
Bob S., Brian H., Burt K.,
Carol R., Emily R., Frank D.,
Henry O., Jake K., Jeff K.,
Jesse S., Jim C., John L.,
Judd B., Kevin C., Megan R.,
Mike B., Mike O., Mike S.,
Parker C., Shawn S.,
Suzanne B., Ty K.

**Thanks to all
the NightOwl
volunteers and
groups as well!**



**Thanks to the groups that
contributed in February
2014**

- Apple Valley Monday BB
- Burnsville - Primary Purpose
- Dakota Alano Thurs 1145 AM
- Defogged Men's Group
- Eagan Tuesday Nighters
- Forest Lake Alano
- Gratitude in Action
- Happy Hour Men's Meeting
- Hastings Club
- Highland Park Groups
- Live and Let Live
- Midway Club
- North Dale Group
- Pocketing Our Pride
- River Rats
- Safe Haven for Women AA Group
- Senior AA
- Shoreview 12 x 12
- St. Stephen's Tuesday Group
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Una Luz en el Camino
- Uptown Club



The Lifeline: Purpose Statement

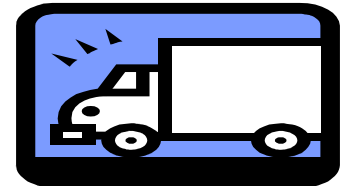
The Lifeline is the monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup Association office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by, and for groups and members of the A.A. Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or Intergroup. We welcome articles on a Step, Tradition or Concept, or descriptions of personal experience. Please email your article to Lifeline@aastpaul.org, or send it by regular mail to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue #214, St. Paul MN 55104. Materials or articles mailed to us cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Intergroup reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, language, length and content that might violate A.A.'s Traditions, etc.

St. Paul Intergroup
Spruce Tree Center
1600 University Ave. W. Ste. 214
St. Paul, MN 55104

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities MN
Permit No. 7451

Please let us know if your address changes one month ahead of time. It saves us the cost of return postage and enables you to get each issue of *The Lifeline*. Our mailing permit does not provide for mail forwarding. Thank you!



St. Paul Intergroup *Faithful Fiver* - Enrollment Form

Faithful Fivers graciously contribute \$5.00 or more to St. Paul Intergroup each month to enable us to continue to carry A.A.'s vital message of Hope and Recovery to all who need and want it. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to *The Lifeline*. Contributions may be made annually, bi-annually, quarterly or monthly.

~Yes! Please enroll me as a *Faithful Fiver* !

1. Contact information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____

2. Amount & Frequency:

Amount: \$ _____
Frequency: (check only one)
 Monthly Quarterly Bi-Annually Annually
Start on ____/____/____
 Please send my receipt to my email address
 Please send my receipt to my home/postal address
 Please send my **Lifeline** to my **email** address instead

3. Choose a Payment Method:

Credit Card/Debit Card*
 Visa MasterCard
Card # _____/_____/_____/_____
Expiration Date: ____/____
Name on Card _____

Signature _____

*I authorize St. Paul Intergroup to automatically bill my account as specified (monthly, quarterly, etc.). I understand that I am free to cancel this authorization at any time by contacting Intergroup.

Check - Please make payable to:

Saint Paul Intergroup
1600 University Ave W. - Suite 214
Saint Paul, MN 55104